PERIODICO EN ESPAÑOL ADENTRO

CHALLENGE

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM ★ LUCHE POR EL COMUNISMO ★ PLP

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

volume 49 no.14 July 12, 2017 suggested donation $1

CHICAGO WORKING CLASS:

ABOLISH RACISM

As Progressive Labor Party prepares for our 2017 Summer Project in Chicago, the city's working class is under intense attack. Decades of rule by the "lesser-evil" Democratic politicians have done nothing but make the political, social, and economic life of workers more unbearable, as shown by unprecedented numbers of Black families leaving the city (WGN, 6/22).

As always with capitalism, racist and sexist attacks are the tip of the spear in the drive to bring down the living conditions of all workers. More than ever, workers in Chicago and everywhere need PLP's communist politics and organization as the only permanent path out of capitalism's destruction and towards a working-class egalitarian world that meets our needs.



Chicago, in solidarity with Ferguson, erupts in protest after the murder of Mike Brown (2014). The fight against police terror continues on today. Shut down this racist system with communist revolution.

Gang Violence vs Economic Violence—The Real Criminals

The working class of Chicago has received a lot of media attention in recent years, the overwhelming majority of it negative. The bosses' racist and sexist mouthpieces depict the city as a lawless warzone, with gang violence running unchecked in hyper-segregated west and south side neighborhoods. But this skewed perspective purposefully deflects attention and the proper blame away from the capitalists and their politicians, the criminals most directly responsible for the violence that workers face.

Far less noted in the bosses' media is the fact that capitalism's racist unemployment prevents at least 50 percent of Black youth between the ages of 20-24 from finding jobs in the city (Chicago Tribune, 1/25/16). Practically forgotten is how Obama and Clinton protégé Mayor Rahm Emanuel led the charge in 2013 to close 50 public schools—the majority in Black and Latin neighborhoods—in addition to closing half of the city's mental health centers. For over three years, the bosses' infighting has prevented a budget from being passed for the state of Illinois, shredding various social programs and destroying countless working-class lives.

A communist class-conscious outlook cuts through the hypocrisy and places blame on the bosses, exactly where it belongs. The poverty, desperation, and lack of opportunity inflicted on the working class by capitalism, which needs rising unemployment, a shredded safety net, and ultimately war to survive through its economic crises, is a violence that far outweighs that of any street gang. The communist society that PLP fights for would be the exact opposite: our needs and development as workers would be the primary goal. There'd simply be no reason to turn to drugs or reactionary violence in order to survive.

No KKKops, No Fake Councils, Only Workers' Power

The bosses' only consistent answer to address the class violence and inequality in the city has been to advocate for more of their own racist attack dogs. In September of 2016, Mayor Emanuel made his proposal to hire 1,000 more cops by 2018 (CNN, 9/21/16). A thousand kkkops just means a thousand more potential Jason Van Dykes (murderer of Laquan McDonald) or Dante Servins (murderer of Rekia Boyd) roaming the streets, terrorizing and murdering our working-class sisters and brothers. Chicago already has a relatively high proportion of cops compared to other cities. All it has led to is more bloodshed and a costly federal investigation regarding the rampant institutional racism of the police department (CPD).

PL comrades and friends in Chicago have made our presence known in many of the actions taken over the years against the notoriously racist and sexist CPD. We marched on Van Dyke's home last summer to let everyone know that there's no refuge for racist murderers.

We helped organize and lead a mass demonstration against the racist Fraternal Order of Police headquarters in Chicago this past September, pointing out how the kkkops' "union" essentially helps them get away with murdering workers and youth.

Continued on page 3

JOIN THE FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

★EDITORIAL Carnage of Working Class in Syria *page 2*

★LA Pride Parade: Surge of Anger, Must Reject Liberalism *page 3*

★PAKISTAN Chinese Imperialism Brings Misery to Workers *page 4*

★CHICAGO Sanders's Summit Exploits Workers' Anger *page 5*

★HISTORY The Harlem Rebellion *page 8*

OUR FIGHT

☆Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

☆The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

☆Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

☆While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

☆Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

☆Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

☆Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

☆Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

☆Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

☆Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

CONTACT US

Email
desafio.challenge@gmail.com
Mail
Box 808 GPO, Brooklyn, NY 11202
Internet
www.plp.org
challengenewspaper.wordpress.com
Twitter: @PLPchallenge
Facebook: Challenge Desafio

WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

CHALLENGE/DESAFIO (ISSN 0009-1049) published bi-weekly by Challenge Periodicals. 1 issue $1. One Year: $20. Six months: $15. Send address changes to CHALLENGE Periodicals, GPO Box 808 Brooklyn, NY 11202, July 12, 2017. Volume 49, No. 14

Editorials

Carnage of Working Class in Syria



As ISIS loses ground and influence over eastern Syria, two larger, more lethal terrorist organizations—the U.S. and Russian capitalist ruling classes—are escalating their competition for control of this strategically vital area in the oil-rich Middle East. The inevitable result: more carnage for our working class sisters and brothers in Syria. From April 23 to May 23, more civilians were killed by U.S.-led airstrikes than in any other month so far in the six-year-old war, according to the UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (Independent, 5/23).

In the current month alone, in a move to protect Syrian rebel ground troops fighting the Russia, and Iran-backed regime of President Bashar al-Assad, U.S. warplanes have downed two Iranian-made drones and a Syrian SU-22 warplane—"the first time the American military had shot down an enemy plane since an F-16 took down a Soviet-era MIG-29 during the 1999 conflict over Kosovo" (New York Times, 6/19). In response, Russia threatened to target any U.S. or allied planes sighted west of the Euphrates River. A bloody proxy war that has already slaughtered and displaced millions of workers and children may be evolving into more direct—and more lethal—inter-imperialist conflict.

The catastrophic turmoil in today's Middle East is a direct result of U.S. efforts to dominate the Persian Gulf region since the end of World War II. In 1980, the Carter Doctrine made it official that U.S. imperialism would stop any other "outside" power from challenging U.S. hegemony. In the words of the late mass murderer Zbigniew Brezinski, Carter's national security adviser, "such an assault will be repelled by any means necessary, including military force."

While the blunt force of U.S. imperialism has guaranteed billions of dollars in profits for Exxon Mobil, it has also enabled regional capitalist powers to mislead masses of workers and make their own grab for bigger pieces of the petroleum pie. In 1979, Iran's mullahs gained power by deposing the hated shah of Iran, who'd been installed to protect U.S. and British oil interests after the CIA engineered a coup to overthrow the elected president (Guardian, 8/19/13). In the 1980s, before the unreliable Saddam Hussein made the U.S. most-wanted list, he was propped up by U.S. power during the Iran-Iraq War. The CIA incubated al-Qaeda in Afghanistan. ISIS was born out of post-Saddam manipulation of mass anti-U.S. sentiment after the 2003 Iraq invasion.

Today, as the U.S. bosses find their capacity to shape events eroding, rival ruling classes in Russia and Iran are growing more aggressive. Even traditional U.S. allies—Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Israel—are charting more independent courses to challenge U.S dominance.

Imperialists Murder With Impunity

U.S. rulers' fight to control Middle East oil and natural gas has been a disaster for the international working class. According to the Washington, DC-based Physicians for Social Responsibility, the death toll from the "War on Terror," launched after 9/11, may be as high as two million (Middle East Eye, 4/18/16). That number doesn't include the millions killed in the Gulf War in 1991 and the murderous U.S. sanctions on Iraq that followed. By themselves, President Bill Clinton's no-fly zones of the 1990s cost the lives of 500,000 Iraqi children—a price that Madeleine Albright, Clinton's secretary of state, considered "worth it."

Now, in their quest to wrest control of territory from ISIS, U.S. coalition forces are committing war crimes in urban centers in Syria and neighboring Iraq. According to Human Rights Watch (6/4):

> *In both Mosul and Raqqa, the US-led forces are using US-made M825-series 155mm artillery projectiles containing 116 felt wedges impregnated with white phosphorus, which ignites and continues to burn when exposed to the air….White phosphorus fragments can exacerbate wounds even after treatment and can enter the bloodstream and cause multiple organ failure. Already dressed wounds can reignite when dressings are removed and they are re-exposed to oxygen. Even relatively minor burns are often fatal.*

Refugee Crisis

The spread of fighting has led to a dire humanitarian crisis, with 6.1 million internally displaced people and 4.8 million seeking refuge abroad, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. By mid-2016, according to Human Rights Watch, an estimated 1 million people were living in besieged areas, with no access to life-saving assistance or and humanitarian aid. A recent polio outbreak punctuates the health risks to the population, and to children in particular (NYT, 6/20).

Perpetual War is the New Normal

As the conflict in Syria has grown into the most intense urban combat since World War II, living on the brink of wider war has become the "new normal" for the international working class. Atrocities by U.S. imperialism are now routine, the backdrop of daily life.

Continued on page 5

Chicago: Abolish Racism

Continued from page 1

With every action, we've made it our responsibility as communists to explain to the working class that freedom from racism and murderous cops doesn't come through hiring more Black or Latin cops or through civilian "control" of the department—only through organizing for communist revolution and workers' power all over the world.

The Fight for a Communist World Involves YOU!

The more intolerable that conditions get for the working class, in Chicago and all over the world, the more important our task as revolutionary communists becomes.

Readers of CHALLENGE, anti-racist, anti-sexist fighters everywhere are strongly encouraged to connect with PLP during the week of July 9 through the 16 in Chicago as we fight back and continue building the movement to destroy the bosses and their profit system. Join the fight!✪



BROOKLYN, June 27—Over 150 parents, teachers, alumni and students closed out a school year punctuated by anti racist fightback with a spirited rally demanding an end to the department of education's fascist investigation into political organizing at Park Slope Collegiate high school. This multiracial demonstration sent a strong message that while the summer break is upon us there is no vacation from the fight against racism.

Pride Parade: Surge of Class Anger, Must Reject Liberal Politics

LOS ANGELES—Over 100,000 workers came out to show their support for the LGBTQ members of our class and all workers facing repression. In the past, LA Pride has hosted a parade and street fair in West Hollywood.

A local congregation with Progressive Labor Party members has marched in the parade with banners and signs proclaiming our church's long history of performing gay marriages and supporting LGBTQ rights.

This year, in this period of heightened sexism and racism, especially towards immigrant and Muslim workers, the organizers announced that there would be a #Resist March for "human rights" instead.

We in PLP understand that there can be no rights for the working class under capitalism but applaud the efforts to broaden this struggle.



Rampant Racism

The roots of Pride originate in rebellion against racist, sexist, anti-gay police terror that we still see today. Black transgender women and gay men still face far more police harassment, terror and incarceration than any group within the LGBTQ section of our class and the working-class as a whole.

The rate of HIV/AIDS has recently reached staggering numbers. One in two Black gay men or transwomen will contract HIV in their lifetime. In other words, if the Black gay and trans youth and workers in the U.S. were a country, it would lead the world in HIV/AIDS rates.

Anti-Gay Violence & Police Terror Interrelated

In 1969 in Greenwich Village, New York at the Stonewall Inn bar, led by Black and Latin transgender, gay and lesbian patrons rebellions erupted against the police who raided and terrorized them. In fact, the first Pride march in Los Angeles in 1970 was also a response to police terror against the LGBTQ working class. Over the years though, Pride has become a weekend of celebration culminating in a parade.

Anger Limited to Anti-Trump

This year, the march itself was a step up in the level of political anger. Unfortunately, it was almost exclusively directed at Trump and the Republicans, instead of also calling out the complicity of the Democrats and the capitalist system as a whole—which requires police terror, racism, sexism and anti-gay politics to divide our class in order to maximize profits.

Through mass organizing in the church, on the job, and in the schools we were able to organize over a dozen base members to join a multiracial, multigenerational group of workers. When we passed a group of anti-gay counter-protesters, we led the group in a chant of "No Trump, No KKK, No fascist USA!"

But we have a long way to go in overcoming the identity politics, nationalism and pro-democrat ideology which are rampant in the march and in this congregation—all of which keep the working class more divided.

Mayor Garcetti, No Friend of Working Class

Mayor Eric Garcetti, the first Jewish mayor and second Mexican mayor of Los Angeles, who is a frequent speaker at Pride (and Women's March) is not only given a platform to speak but is called "a champion of LGBTQ rights." He gives lip service to the plight of transgender workers who face higher rates of unemployment and double the homelessness in the nation, claiming "this is a city built on diversity and inclusiveness…transgender Angelenos have limitless potential and deserve every chance to find employment" (LGBT Weekly, 12/2016). Under his leadership, the rates of homelessness (which increases the risk of HIV transmission) continue to rise under his tenure just as the number of unaffordable luxury condos sprout all over the city.

He's justified the continuing privatization (charters) of public schools in LA that disproportionately affect Black, Latin and immigrant workers. He is silent while the school board terrorizes the students who walked out after the Trump inauguration and teachers face suspensions for supporting these students (including one PLP teacher). And while LA boasts the most diverse police force, the LAPD KKKops continue to the lead the way in the number of Black and Latin workers murdered by the police!

Next time, we have to do a better job at calling out these liberal misleaders for their role in the racist, sexist, anti-gay attacks on our class!✪

Pakistan: Growing Chinese Imperialism Means More Misery for Millions of Workers



Workers in Pakistan protest Chinese imperialism. Nationalism remains a political division in the working class. Reject *all* bosses and their institutions.

PAKISTAN—The working class continues to be exploited viciously by the capitalist class here in Pakistan, and by growing Chinese imperialism. To divide the masses in the name of different nationalities, religion, religious sects and build allegiances to one or another celebrity political personality, the capitalist bosses shout over each other over minor issues to hide their unity with their brutal system.

This vicious exploitation goes hand-in-hand with the increasing importance of the working class of Pakistan's labor to Chinese imperialism. In the midst of the sharpening attacks on the working class and sharpening inter-imperialist rivalry between the United States and China, the Progressive Labor Party here is growing too!

Communists Building Resistance in Pakistan

PLP is building among workers and students despite limited resources and difficult circumstances. PLP is involved in many activities here. Most recently, we played a key role to organize different activities for International Working Women's Day and May Day.

We are involved in the mass workers' and student movements, struggling to let the working class know that these so-called trade union "leaders" and politicians may appear to be opposed, but are on the same page to exploit the working class. This rotten capitalist system is the main cause of all these miseries of poor workers, and therefore we have to get rid of capitalism by building a communist movement under the red flag of an international communist PLP.

Workers Have No "Rights"

Pakistan has the ninth largest labor force in the world with 66 million workers. Less than two million workers are unionized in one of about 950 trade unions, because the majority of workers are denied the right to organize a union. Forty four percent of the entire workforce are in agriculture, cannot form a union, and are badly exploited. Twenty three percent of all workers are industrial workers, employed on an individual contract system with no rights to any benefits. Thirty four percent are engaged in services (excluding the military and police service) where there are some unions. Their so-called "leaders" are under the political control of the bosses and their politicians, and the bosses' government threatens rank-and-file workers into paralysis with strict laws and regulations.

The working class here is deprived of all rights. There are no real labor laws. Women workers are desperately exploited, sexually abused, and tortured at workplaces. Workers do not receive the minimum wage which is supposedly mandated by the government. There is no healthcare, no old age benefit, no social welfare fund, no social security, no fixed working hours, no safety and security at workplaces.

The bosses' corrupt political parties use the working class for their votes to get into government power, and are resorting to paying some money to unemployed workers to come to public meetings and chant in their favor or against their political opponents. It will help bosses to buy the votes of the poorest sectors of the working class, and if some poor workers are hesitant to sell out their votes, than they will be tortured to snatch them.

If workers try to organize a demonstration outside of these political parties, they can be fired, or declared terrorists according to the government's latest "anti-terrorism" laws.

Imperialism is Terrorism for Workers

Workers bear the brunt of these so-called "anti-terrorism" laws, which are really about keeping the working class terrorized into submission as Pakistan's bosses enrich themselves off of the workers' labor, and sell it to the highest imperialist bidder.

Pakistan is a centerpiece of Chinese imperialism's enormous, 65-nation "One Belt One Road" (OBOR) project to integrate Central Asia, Africa and Europe to China's growing economy. Pakistan is strategic for its position connecting Central, East, and South Asia with the Middle East and the Arabian Sea. China has pledged $57 billion (U.S. dollars) to Pakistan's bosses to build new factories, pipelines and shipping ports, like Gwadar. Pakistan, historically allied to U.S. imperialism, has been sparing no expense to impress their new imperialist masters in Beijing, including creating a new army division dedicated to protecting Chinese investments, and gunning down workers.

On Saturday, May 13, the same day China and Pakistan's bosses signed another $500 million deal, ten construction workers were murdered by these soldiers, who were building roads linking remote towns to OBOR projects (Reuters, 5/13). The Pakistani government was supposedly "wary of Islamist militants" (Reuters).

The working class' miseries are not discussed in the public meetings of different political parties, or even in the strikes sometimes organized by the trade unions. The fake "leadership" of these political parties and unions avoid explaining the causes of working-class deprivation because they avoid criticizing any of the capitalist bosses, or the capitalist system. They stick to begging the bosses for tiny increases in wages!

PLP is the only party which marches and strikes alongside the workers and students while exposing the real reasons behind the miseries of working class. Capitalism is making the lives of the entire international working class more difficult because the bosses need more profits, and we must organize ourselves against capitalism for international communist revolution!

The Cops, The Courts, The Taliban...

The capitalists and their parliament, administration, schools, courts, police and religious terrorists are all part of the capitalist system keeping Pakistan's working class under brutal exploitation. The biggest bosses cut deals and allow extremist religious groups a share of the profits, while publicly claiming to be part of the "war on terror."

Nowhere is this clearer than with the Taliban and other allied terrorist groups. Virtually every city in Pakistan is under the local control of these religious extremists, fascist paramilitaries and criminal mafias. In the rural areas, religious fascists treat themselves like feudal lords in not only outright exploitation and denial of basic education, but also in mandating and perpetuating sexist feudal-era customs to the extreme, playing games with workers' lives and honor for amusement.

In these areas, the local bosses mandate men to murder women who refuse to marry them, or they seek a divorce from, and/or mandate "honor raping" against women as payment if someone in the woman's family was found guilty of "dishonor."

...All Are Part of the Bosses' Plan!

The local religious bosses like the Taliban help the Pakistani bosses divide and conquer the working class, and try to condition women and men workers to accept their role as cheap wage-slaves for either U.S. or Chinese imperialism.

These sharpening political-economic attacks on the working class, on the other hand, reflect how vital Pakistan's workers are to the growing inter-imperialist rivalry between the U.S. and Chinese capitalists, and how desperately these bosses' imperialist plans depend on the profits from our labor. A strong communist movement here can send shockwaves around the world.

PLP is growing stronger here every day because of our communist line and dedicated comrades. We are learning how our communist ideas can flourish in these difficult circumstances, and are bringing more workers into the Party!✪

‘People’s Summit’

Sanders Faction Exploits Workers’ Anger

CHICAGO, June 11—Bernie Sanders’s second People’s Summit attempted to draw in and mislead 4,000 progressive-minded people. Much like UK’s Jeremy Corbyn’s Labour Party, this faction of the Democratic Party aims to build liberal fascism with the backing of young people.

Rebuilding Democratic Party

While a good part of the working class hates the Trump administration, they also hate the Democrats. A national poll found 62 percent of people felt the Republicans were out of touch with the public, compared to 66 percent for Democrats (ABC, 4/23).

Taking place the day after the Labour Party in London won the second-largest number of seats in Parliament, the People’s Summit sought fresh blood for the murderous anti-worker organization: the Democratic Party. Sanders said, “The current model and the current strategy of the Democratic Party is an absolute failure” (The Nation, 6/15). The Democratic Party faces a “widening breach” within their leadership and ranks, many bitter and trying to recover after its election failure. While some faction of the Democratic Party has reacted by moving to the right, the Sanders faction has continued to build faith in liberalism.

Using a lefty face, the Sanders faction, which includes Elizabeth Warren, is advocating for liberal fascism: mild reforms of wages, healthcare, and education while disciplining both the ruling and working class for a world of war. One of their main concerns is how best to sell a party of imperialism and war to a divided working class of an empire in decline. This faction seeks to assimilate those fed up with business as usual.

Bernie Con

This summit charged people up to $200 to attend and hear Sanders and other misleaders try to persuade workers that “we can vote out racism, sexism, imperialism and capitalism.” Progressive Labor Party was also at the summit to give a different message to workers: only communist revolution can destroy capitalism.



The People’s Summit was mainly a “Comic Con” for Sanders supporters. There were classes with topics such as “Building a Movement that will Win,” “The Rigged Economy” (but hardly talk about capitalism), or “Voices of Resistance & Power.” The Sanders faction has co-opted language of mass fightback but hardly any Black or Latin workers were to be seen, neither on the panels nor in the audience.

They also had a session on “Down-Ballot Revolutionaries” led by Khalid Kamau, a Black Lives Matter activist turned politician, which focused on getting those under 35 into office at all levels of government. This session shows how important it is for the bosses to funnel working-class anger into state-sanctioned politics. It also exposes how desperate the Democratic Party is for younger leadership.

They talked about “building a movement” but the summit failed to invite or even talk about the fightback or the local organizations from Chicago, the very city in which this conference is being held.

Continued on page 6

Sanders, Enemy of Workers

Sanders denounce rising inequality, pushes for mild reforms, and wants to “break up” the biggest U.S. banks. By tightening financial regulations and disciplining the banks, the leading bosses would tighten their hold on the financial system. The dominant capitalist wing, aligned with ExxonMobil, could then channel profits into rebuilding a weakened U.S. military. For finance capital, the top priority is to occupy the Middle East and Central Asia and consolidate control over cheaply extracted oil.

Like every liberal imperialist politician, Sanders and his pro-worker disguise present a grave danger to our class. As a U.S. congressman and senator, Sanders voted for:

- Economic sanctions that killed more than a million Iraqi civilians;
- Every U.S. bombing of Iraq since 1992;
- Sending U.S. military units to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to threaten Iraq because “we cannot tolerate aggression”;
- Bill Clinton’s overtly racist Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act (1994), which accelerated the mass incarceration of Black and Latin workers and youth;
- U.S. imperialist interventions in Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia, Liberia, Zaire (Congo), Albania, Sudan, Afghanistan and Yugoslavia.

Carnage of Working Class in Syria

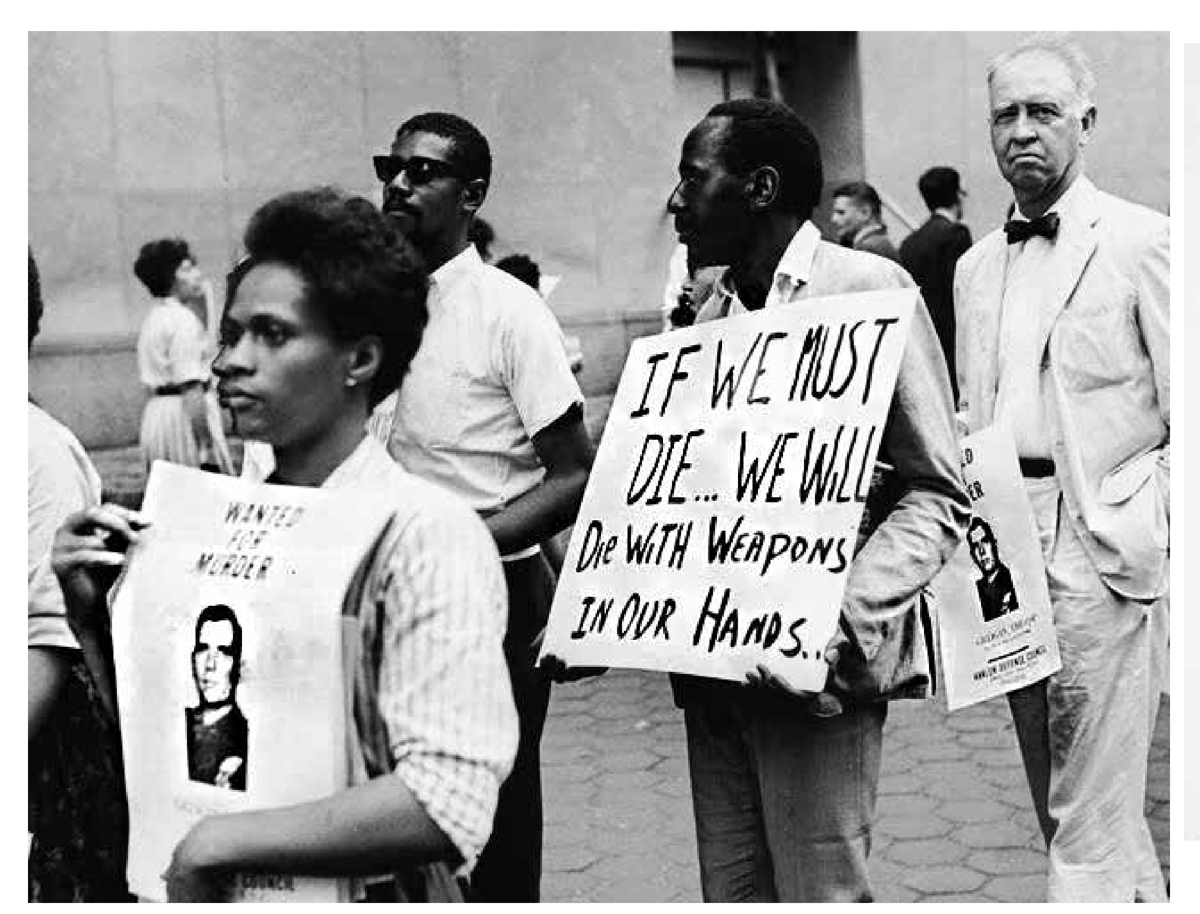
Continued from page 2

This is a great danger for our class, especially in the absence of mass anti-imperialist mobilization. In the Vietnam War era, communist-led and communist-influenced movements around the world fought back against these imperialist atrocities. Today, after the reversal of the communist revolutions in the Soviet Union and China, workers’ fightback has been muted or misled by fake leftists, racist nationalists, and Islamic fundamentalists. This is the challenge for Progressive Labor Party—to pick up the red flag and lead the workers of the world to their only solution—communist revolution.

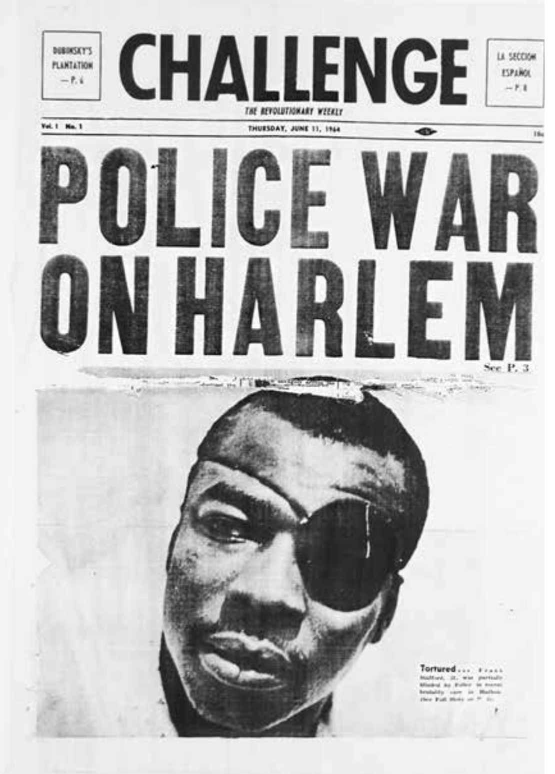
Only communist revolution removes the conditions that create imperialist war. Only a dictatorship of the proletariat enables workers to decide which wars are worth fighting. In 1917, when the Bolsheviks led workers, soldiers, and peasants to sweep the Russian ruling class from power, an inter-imperialist war (World War I) was transformed into class war. The towering lesson of that event is that imperialist war spells doom for capitalists if working people reject patriotism and embrace proletarian internationalism. Every worker is a foot soldier in class war. When workers from the U.S. to Russia, Iraq, Syria, Iran, and beyond place class consciousness above national identity, the end of war in the Middle East will be in sight. ✪



THE HARLEM REBELLION



Rebels hold up wanted posters at a rally and march. PLP published thousands of these posters which were pasted up throughout the city, becoming a declaration of the Rebellion and led to the rulers' jailing of PL's printers.



CHALLENGE

THE REVOLUTIONARY WEEKLY

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1964

POLICE WAR ON HARLEM

See P. 3

The first CHALLENGE, born out of the Harlem Rebellion

Continued from page 8

ert," says Joseph Boskin, history professor emeritus at Boston University.

Boskin, who conducted interviews in Harlem after the [rebellion], says the unmet expectations of Black Americans in the North were starting to push some of them toward more militant routes for change, despite a national narrative of what seemed to be progress in the country's laws" (New York's 'Night Of Birmingham Horror' Sparked A Summer Of Riots, WNYC 7/18/14).

The Progressive Labor Movement, the young forerunner to PLP, grew out of the rebellion and played a leading role at the same time. PLM produced a poster, 'Wanted for Murder - Gilligan the Cop" that became the banner of the struggle carried by thousands of people in the streets. The PLM organized marches and rallies even after the NYC bosses tried to ban all political activity.

The ruling class in New York, who thought of themselves as the "decent" bosses compared to the Jim Crow Southern capitalists, were caught off-guard by the anger of Black workers in Harlem who suffered under extreme inequality.

The Harlem median family income was $3,995 compared to …$6,100 [for NYC], that unemployment in Harlem was 300% higher than in the rest of the city, that substandard housing was 49% while in the rest of NYC it was 15%, that infant mortality was 45.3 per 1000 births but only 26.3 in the rest of the city…Life magazine lamented that "the only force that had the guts to give political direction to the spontaneous rebellion was PL." (Progressive Labor, Vol. 10, No. 1, August-September 1975)

The Harlem Rebellion exposed racism as part of capitalism, even in U.S.'s most liberal center, NYC. After Harlem, within weeks, rebellions broke out in Rochester, Jersey City, Chicago and Philadelphia and over the next few years there were major rebellions in Watts (1965), Newark (1967) and Detroit (1967). Then in 1968, after Martin Luther King was assassinated, rebellions broke out in cities across the country and workers and students around the world, most notably in France and Chicago shook capitalism.

The ruling class has tried to write off the rebellions by calling them riots and dismissing the contribution and courage of the tens of thousands of Black workers who were part of the movement. But even now, 50 years later, the truth of the Harlem Rebellion has not been erased.

Part of the problem is that in the North, many of the laws were not openly discriminatory,…It made it harder to seize the moral high ground and argue that nonviolent civil disobedience was justified.

So, growing frustrations found an outlet on the streets, according to Billy Mitchell, historian of Harlem's Apollo Theater.

"It wasn't just people just wildin' out, you know, and just going crazy. They understood what they were doing,"…

Looking back, Mitchell says he doesn't completely condone the violent response. But he says it was necessary.

"Sometimes you have got to really do something extraordinary or uncommon to get the attention of people," he adds.

(In the Heat of the Summer: The Harlem Riot of 1964 and the Road to America's Prison Crisis).

The U.S. ruling class responded to the mass demonstrations and anti-imperialist movements with both terror and political crumbs. Police and soldiers fired on and killed civil rights demonstrators and students fighting racism and war in Orangeburg, SC, Jackson State, MS and Kent State, OH (see CHALLENGE, 6/28).

Combined with the brutal attacks, the ruling class enacted a series of reforms in cities with concentrations of Black workers. Lyndon Johnson launched the War on Poverty funneling millions of dollars to create community programs. The Democratic Party and northern capitalists spent millions getting Black mayors elected across the country.

The FBI revved up its Cointelpro Program. A covert operation to target PLP and other groups to try to destroy the anti-imperialist movement. Leaders of PLP were arrested and some were convicted and jailed, others harassed and fired. Through those struggles and in the years since we've tried to keep up the fight against racism and build an integrated organization.

Black workers who have borne the brunt of racism and led the fight against it must be in the leadership of any working-class struggle and movement for communism. There will be no forward progress for the working class without the leadership of Black workers and a massive struggle against racism.✪

'People Summit'

Continued from page 5

Sanders and his group allowed various revisionist groups to have information tables at this summit.

Classic Misleadership

During this summit, the talk going around was about "resistance" but Sanders and his cronies don't say take to the streets and fight racism and sexism. They preach voting for change. Hardly any of the misleaders at this conference encouraged the attendees to join the local protest against the Neo-Nazi group Act for America and kkkops at a rally that took place on the Saturday of the conference (see CHALLENGE, 6/28). Most of the people there didn't even know it was going on.

A PL'er talked to some workers at the summit about going to the rally and joining with the party and other anti-racists. One conference attendee said, "I paid a lot of money to be here and I want to get my money's worth."

Honest Workers Ready to Fight

But out of the dead-end of Sanders' ideas, there were workers, young and old that truly wanted to fight back against capitalism and imperialism. One of the only highlights of this summit was the meeting of Black workers at the end of the conference. Again like all capitalist movements, Black workers were marginalized and issues were 'pushed to the back' if they were talked about at all.

During the meeting, a Party member gave a speech about how only communism can truly destroy racism and sexism and that Black workers are the key to revolution. Most of the workers in the meeting were interested in the party and took CHALLENGE. Many didn't know about communism or had disagreements, but they too were interested in Progressive Labor Party's fight to abolish racism and sexism.✪

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

Week of Action to Build Working-Class Unity

In response to a mass effort of high school students and parents, the Boston Teachers' Union sponsored a "Week of Action" to build unity among school workers and immigrant families. PL'ers made this a reality in their schools.

At one school an immigration lawyer from the PAIR project (Political Asylum/Immigration Representation Project) presented "Know Your Rights" at a staff meeting. This was followed by a similar presentation at a dinner for families. Everyone was inspired by the tremendous feeling of unity we built by bringing together school workers, parents, and students of many nationalities and walks of life to support undocumented families.

Communists in PLP have a crucial role to play in forging workers' confidence in our class. It is the antidote to the racist and sexist divisions that are flourishing in the wake of Trump's election.

★★★★★

Fake Left Toes Bosses' Anticommunist Line

The fake left Indypendent Newspaper's June article, "Daddy, is My Principal a Red?" exposes Indypendent's anticommunist roots with its supposed criticism of McCarthyism in the [Department of Education's investigation] of a Park Slope school while using the same red scare tactics McCarthy used to split communist workers from other workers. Instead of raising the real issue of the struggle which is "Daddy, is My School a Capitalist Jail?" it tries to promote the idea that reds and not capitalist racism caused the Park Slope problem.

Capitalists know that communist ideas, if grasped by masses of workers, could end their murderous system. Most of the safety net of workers benefits today—Social Security, unemployment insurance, the 40-hour week, unions, etc.—were organized and won through bloody struggles by communist-led workers.



Capitalists spent billions on propaganda to force communists out of the workforce during the 30s and 50s using mass firings and jail. But you cannot jail communist ideas because they represent survival and the future of the working class, which is why you won't see these ideas in the Indypendent.

★★★★★

Coal Mine Reopened

On June 8, coal bosses held a ceremony marking the opening of a new mine in Somerset County, in southwestern Pennsylvania, that supposedly will employ between 70 to 100 miners. According to news stories in local papers, these coal bosses had invited Trump to this ceremony, while obviously attempting to give him credit for this new mine opening. Trump had even mentioned the development in a speech regarding the withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accord. Trump had stated that this opening was unheard of and good news for miners everywhere.

This whole event was a staged one, the "theater of the absurd" for public consumption. Nobody in their right mind would believe that Trump was ever a friend of miners or a champion of their rights. Unfortunately, some, including some miners, have been convinced otherwise by the misleaders of unions and local politicians. Workers cannot win when they are won to looking to a multi-billionaire capitalist boss as their saviors and not to the working class.

In fact, in the past, any gains won by miners were made through struggles against bosses like Trump, some of them violent struggles. In fact, there was once a shooting war in Somerset County between striking miners and company thugs. Those workers would later win unionization, in the United Mine Workers of America. The current jobs being offered are non-union. Union or not, a measly 100 jobs or 1000s, though, no amount of crumbs tossed to workers is enough for the working class.

★★★★★

RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Below are excerpts from mainstream newspapers that may be of use for our readers. Abbreviations: NYT=New York Times, GW=Guardian Weekly, LAT=Los Angeles Times

'Specialist doctors' profits drive up costs and kill people'

NYT, 6/4 — The Affordable Care Act…should have been called the Access to Unaffordable Care Act. In 2015 health care spending reached $3.2 trillion — $10,000 for every man, woman and child in America….[This] health care system is the most expensive in the world…on many measures of performance it ranked last out of 11 developed countries….

…Health care…is a colossal network of unaccountable profit centers, the pricing of which has been controlled by medical specialists….Neither Republicans nor Democrats have been willing to address this. Most Americans mistakenly believe that they must see specialists for almost every medical problem….[But] specialists determine the services that are covered by insurance, and the prices that may be charged for them.

Physician specialty groups have created "societies"…[that] are also lobbyists, charged with maximizing the incomes of member doctors by influencing pricing decisions….Though they would vigorously deny it, entrepreneurial doctors often treat each patient as an opportunity to make money….The current payment incentives do more than drive up costs — they can kill people.

Sedated endoscopy….death rate is 1 in 9,000. Since approximately 18 million sedated endoscopies re done each year…"routine endoscopies" may cause 2,000 deaths a year. And yet, for acid reflux, there is a safer, cheaper and equally accurate procedure available called transnasal endoscopy;…doctors rarely employ it, presumably because it doesn't pay as well.

…my [Jamie Koufman] practice is acid reflux…. By the time patients arrive at my office, most have already seen otolaryngologists, pulmonologists, gastroenterologists and allergists. They have undergone unnecessary CT scans, MRI's, blood work, allergy tests, asthma treatments, endoscopies, and nasal and sinus surgeries. Each specialist performs the procedures that generate income for them, and then passes the patient along. But…. sometimes all a patient needs are basic changes in diet, lifestyle and sleep. Neither the Affordable Care Act nor the Republicans' American Health Care Act addresses the way specialists are corrupting our health care system.

Graduating students, Haitian protesters pillory Hillary

NYT, 6/9 — At Barclay's Center in Brooklyn… Hillary Clinton… [spoke to] graduates of Medgar Evers College…. [named for] the slain civil rights leader….When asked to stand for the speaker, at various points several dozen rows of people stayed in their seats. There were…boos.

One graduate, Oluwatobi Olufeko, said,: "I'm personally not excited. I honestly don't think she's done much for the black community. Her husband…as president passed a bill that incarcerated a large number of black males."

Ms. Olufeko, 20, was…raised in Brooklyn by Nigerian parents….She said there were many students who shared her opinion on Mrs. Clinton….

Outside Barclay's, protesters from a Haitian organization, Committee to Mobilize Against Dictatorship in Haiti, or Komokoda, spoke against…the Clinton Foundation's misuse of funds for earthquake victims in 2010 and held up signs with slogans like "Hillary Clinton: Not a Role Model for Black Youth."

Cops' racism shows up in disrespect for Black drivers in traffic stops

NYT, 6/7 — Police officers are significantly less respectful and consistently ruder toward black motorists during routine traffic stops than they are toward white drivers, a….paper published… in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Scientists detailed…in…footage from body cameras worn by members of the Oakland Police Department in California….

…A psychology professor…said in an interview…that was unlikely that the results were unique to Oakland and that she would expect that similar imbalances to show up throughout the United States….More than 35,000 utterances captured by the body-worn cameras [found] that white motorists were 57 percent more likely to have heard…respectful statements…while black community members were 61 percent more likely to have heard one of the lest respectful.

Syria/Iraq: U.S. bombings killing thousands, displacing 160,000

NYT, 6/15 — A United Nations panel said…. American-led coalition….intensification of airstrikes [in Syria]…has resulted not only in staggering loss of civilian life but has also led to 160,000 civilians fleeing their homes….

...200 civilians [were] killed…when an airstrike hit a school in the town of Mansoura….housing families that had fled the fighting….Airwars… monitoring reports of civilian deaths in Iraq and Syria has estimated that at least 3,100 civilians were killed in coalition airstrikes…in August 2014 up to March 2017, more than eight times the 352 casualties acknowledged by the Unites States military….

…Concerns were further underscored by re-

BLACK AND RED, UNTOLD HISTORY PART IV

THE HARLEM REBELLION

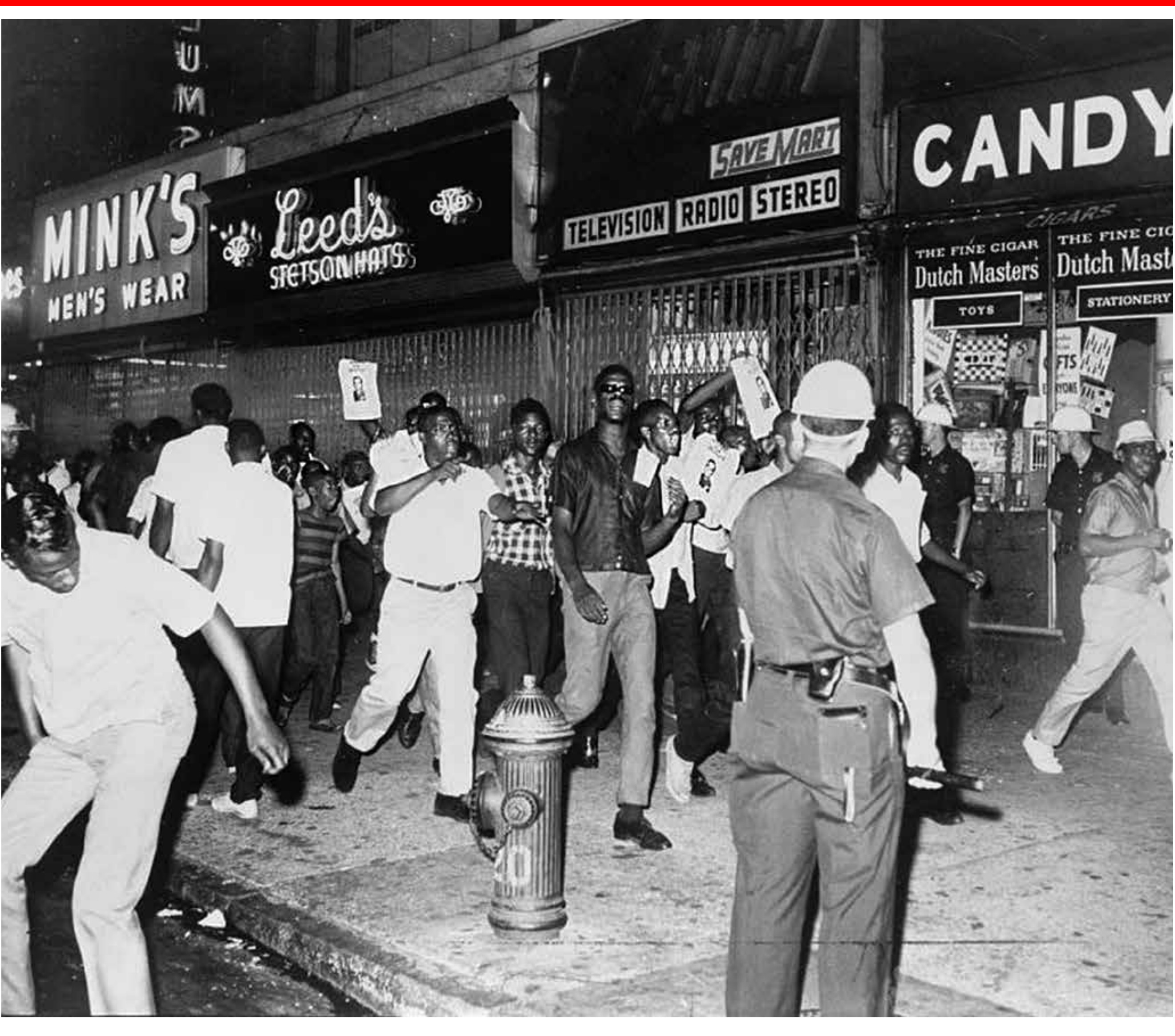
Ruling-class historians have segregated the fight against racism and the fight for an egalitarian system, communism. In reality, the two were connected like flesh and bone. Many antiracist struggles were led by, initiated by, or were fought with communists and communist-influenced organizations. Many Black fighters were also dedicated communists and pro-communists of their time.

In turn, the bosses have used anti-communism as a tool to terrorize and divide antiracist fightback. Regardless of communist affiliation, anyone who fought racism was at risk of being redbaited. Why? 1) The ruling class understands the natural relationship between antiracism and communism, and 2) Multiracial unity threatens the very racist system the bosses "work so hard" to maintain.

This series aims to reunite the history of communism with antiracism. Part I explored how the fight to free Scottsboro Boys was ignited by the International Labor Defense of the Communist Party. See Robin D.G. Kelley's book Hammer and Hoe: Alabama Communists during the Great Depression to find out more.

Part II explored how the international communist movement was the imeptus of the civil rights movement. It excerpts from the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in the essay, "The Civil Rights Movement" by researcher Davarian L. Baldwin at Trinity College. Part III covered the class contradictions of Martin Luther King, Jr., influenced by the Communist Party.

Part IV takes a look at the Harlem Rebellion and its communist influence.



Harlem Rebellion in 1964

The Harlem Rebellion of 1964 shook the United States bosses and resonated around the world as the struggle against racism expanded from the fight against Jim Crow in the South to the cities of the North. Once again the communist movement helped lead and was deeply influenced by the fight against racism in the U.S.

The rebellion, sparked by the police killing a young Black man in cold blood, occurred at a moment when the working class around the world was rising up, led by the communist movement centered around the Chinese Communist Party. The fledgling Progressive Labor Movement born out of the rise of the working class in China, was also shaped by the Harlem Rebellion.

In July 1964, 15 year-old James Powell was playing with friends on the sidewalk across from his school in the white neighborhood of Yorkville, when a building superintendent sprayed them down with a hose and unleashed a series of racial epithets at the Black children. The school kids ran at the super to get him to stop, and a cop, Thomas Gilligan, watching from across the street came at the group and shot James Powell in front of numerous witnesses.

Immediately about 300 Black students from the school rallied at the site of the murder and confronted the police on the scene demanding Gilligan's arrest and inspiring the rebellion.

> *It began outside the walls of a Harlem police station, days after Lt. Thomas Gilligan, a white, off-duty police officer, shot and killed a 15-year-old African-American student named James Powell on July 16. Two days of peaceful protests ensued. But on the third day, a crowd surrounded the police precinct, calling for Gilligan's arrest, and was met with swinging clubs of the New York Police Department, under a rainfall of glass bottles and garbage can lids thrown by residents from rooftops above. Gunfire broke out after police pushed thousands of demonstrators back a few blocks toward the corner of 125th Street and Lenox Avenue" (New York's 'Night Of Birmingham Horror' Sparked A Summer Of Riots, WNYC 7/18/14).*

The rebellion started only weeks after the U.S. had passed the 1964 Civil Rights Act which was Lyndon Johnson's response to the growing Civil Rights Movement in the South. That movement and the world-wide movement led by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) was politicizing the working class. The working class in China, had been victimized by the brutality of British, Japanese and U.S. imperialism. The history of imperialism was inseparable from the racist theories of the British ruling class. The victory of the working class in China inspired workers all over the world to rise up against imperialism and sharpened the struggle against racism. In Vietnam, the working class was in the process of defeating the largest imperialist power the world had ever seen, the war machine of the U.S. bosses. In the U.S., even as legal segregation and racism was being brought down in the South, Black workers in the North were taking on the imbedded racism of liberal capitalism.

> *The overwhelming majority of black New Yorkers saw their quality of life decline, whether it's school segregation, housing segregation, unemployment, earnings… [in the] period between the end of World War II and the 1964 riot… "This was Northern racism, which was quite different from Southern racism, in that Northern racism was cov-*

Continued on page 6

